



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to 18-Year Prison Term For Stabbing Neighbor to Death - Attack Took Place While Defendant Was High on PCP -

WASHINGTON - Troy Richardson, 40, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today to 18 years in prison on charges stemming from the May 2009 killing of his neighbor, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Richardson was convicted in April 2011 of voluntary manslaughter while armed and carrying a dangerous weapon, following a trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. He was sentenced by the Honorable Gerald I. Fisher, who presided at trial. In handing down the sentence, Judge Fisher said that Richardson “took away the life of a good father, son, and friend.”

The evidence at trial revealed that on May 17, 2009, the victim, 34-year-old Tyrone Wheaton, went to his mother’s apartment in the 2400 block of Elvans Road SE for Sunday dinner, as he did every week. He brought along his long-term girlfriend and two young sons. At about 6 p.m., he encountered Richardson, who had been a neighbor for over 15 years.

Richardson had just used PCP and was acting out, as he often did. He started a fight with Mr. Wheaton and then ran back into his apartment, threatening to kill him. As Mr. Wheaton stood in front of his mother’s apartment, speaking to his mother and girlfriend, the defendant carried out that threat. He suddenly appeared with a knife and stabbed Mr. Wheaton one time in the chest, killing him in front of Mr. Wheaton’s mother, girlfriend, and two young sons.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the outstanding efforts of members of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), specifically Detectives Carol Queen, Anthony Patterson, Susan Blue, Jeffrey Mayberry, and Christopher Smith, along with Officers Timothy Dumantt, Jeremy Bank, Kelan Edwards, Petheria McIver and Steven Murphy.

U.S. Attorney Machen also commended the efforts of all at the U.S. Attorney’s Office who assisted in bringing about this successful conclusion, specifically Intelligence Analyst

Lawrence Grasso and Paralegals Sharon Newman and Phalyn Hunt. Finally, he praised the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean Tonolli, now with the Eastern District of Virginia, who investigated the case and tried it previously, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Laura Bach and Melinda Williams, who tried the case.

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